

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A locking device, comprising:
  - an elongate, rigid hollow sleeve collectively formed by a first sleeve part and a second sleeve part that confront one another along a top parting line and a bottom parting line when said rigid hollow sleeve is in a closed configuration;
  - an elongate hinge means for hingedly interconnecting said first sleeve part and said second sleeve part to one another along said bottom parting line;
    - said elongate hinge means including an elongate hinge post;
    - said first and second sleeve part abuttingly engaging one another along said first top parting line when said rigid hollow sleeve is in said closed configuration;
    - a first locking means that secures together said first and second sleeve parts along said first top parting line when said rigid hollow sleeve is in said closed configuration; and
    - a second locking means that prevents hinged motion between said first and second sleeve parts along said second bottom parting line when said rigid hollow sleeve is in said closed configuration;
    - said second locking means including a first bottom lock lug formed integrally with said first sleeve and a second bottom lock lug formed integrally with said second sleeve;
    - a first transversely extending slot formed in said second sleeve to accommodate said first bottom lock lug when said rigid hollow sleeve is in an open configuration; and
    - a second transversely extending slot formed in said first sleeve to accommodate said second bottom lock lug when said rigid hollow sleeve is in said open configuration;
  - whereby said second locking means prevents hinged motion between said first and second parts when said rigid hollow sleeve is in said closed configuratlon even if said first locking means is rendered non-functional.

2. (original) The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:

    said first sleeve part being channel-shaped in transverse cross-section;

    said first sleeve part having a proximal end, a distal end, a top wall, a side wall, and a bottom wall;

        said bottom wall of said first sleeve part having a breadth less than the breadth of said top wall of said first sleeve part;

        said second sleeve part being channel-shaped in transverse cross-section;

        said second sleeve part having a proximal end, a distal end, a top wall, a side wall, and a bottom wall;

        said bottom wall of said second sleeve part having a breadth less than the breadth of said top wall of said second sleeve part;

        said respective top walls of said first and second sleeve parts abutting one another when said first sleeve part is disposed in confronting relation to said second sleeve part;

        an elongate space formed between said respective bottom walls of said first and second sleeve parts when said first sleeve part is disposed in confronting relation to said second sleeve part; and

        said elongate hinge post that forms a part of said elongate hinge means being disposed in said elongate space.

3. (original) The locking device of claim 2, further comprising:

    said elongate hinge means being discontinuous mid-length of said hollow sleeve to accommodate said second lock means;

    said discontinuous elongate hinge means having a first part and a second part in axially aligned, longitudinally spaced apart relation with one another.

4. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 3, further comprising:

    said first part of said elongate hinge means including a first plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that slidably, rotatably, and collectively receive said elongate hinge post;

    said first part of said elongate hinge means further including a first flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said cylindrical inboard parts;

    said first flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said first sleeve part in overlying relation thereto;

said first part of said elongate hinge means further including a second plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that are interleaved with and in axial alignment with the first plurality of cylindrical inboard parts and which also collectively receive said elongate hinge post;

said first part of said elongate hinge means further including a second flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said second plurality of cylindrical inboard parts, said second flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said second sleeve part in overlying relation thereto.

5. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 4, further comprising:

said second part of said elongate hinge means including a first plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that slidingly, rotatingly, and collectively receive said elongate hinge post;

said second part of said elongate hinge means further including a first flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said first plurality of cylindrical inboard parts;

said first flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said first sleeve part in overlying relation thereto;

said second part of said elongate hinge means further including a second plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that are interleaved with and in axial alignment with the first plurality of cylindrical inboard parts of said second part of said elongate hinge means and which also collectively receive said elongate hinge post;

said second part of said elongate hinge means further including a second flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said second plurality of cylindrical inboard parts of said second part of said elongate hinge means, said second flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said second sleeve part of said second part of said elongate hinge means in overlying relation thereto.

6. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 4, further comprising:

a first half flange formed at the proximal end of said first sleeve part;

a second half flange formed at the proximal end of said second sleeve part;

a full flange being formed by said first and second half flanges when said first and second sleeve parts are disposed in confronting relation to one another.

7. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 4, further comprising:

a first reinforcing band fixedly secured to a distal end of said first sleeve part;  
a distal edge of said first reinforcing band being flush with said distal end of said first sleeve part;

a second reinforcing band fixedly secured to a distal end of said second sleeve part;  
a distal edge of said second reinforcing band being flush with said distal end of said second sleeve part;

said first and second reinforcing bands performing the function of dissipating stress loads concentrated at respective distal ends of said first and second sleeve parts.

8. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:

said first locking means including a first centrally apertured top lock lug secured to said first sleeve part, mid-length thereof, in upstanding relation relative to said top wall of said first sleeve part;

said first top lock lug being positioned on an inboard edge of said first sleeve part top wall;

said first locking means further including a second centrally apertured top lock lug secured to said second sleeve part, mid-length thereof, in upstanding relation relative to said top wall of said second sleeve part;

said second top lock lug being positioned on an inboard edge of said second sleeve part top wall, in confronting relation to said first top lock lug;

said respective apertures formed in said first and second top lock lugs being disposed in alignment with one another when said first and second top lock lugs are disposed in confronting relation to one another.

9. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 8, further comprising:

a first semicircular wall of uniform height mounted to said first top wall, mid-length thereof and in upstanding relation thereto, in half-encircling relation to said first top lock lug;

a second semicircular wall of non-uniform height mounted to said second top wall, mid-length thereof and in upstanding relation thereto, in half-encircling relation to said second top lock lug;

a semicircular cut-away formed in a bight region of said second semicircular wall;

said semicircular cut-away providing a clearance space;

said first top lock lug and said second top lock lug adapted to be secured to one another by a shackleless locking means having a hidden pin assembly.

10. (original) The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first pair of resilient pads disposed in said first sleeve part at opposite ends thereof to cushion said piston rod, to protect said piston rod from damage, and to ensure that said locking device fits snugly around said piston rod; and

a second pair of resilient pads disposed in said second sleeve part at opposite ends thereof to cushion said piston rod, to protect said piston rod from damage, and to ensure that said locking device fits snugly around said piston rod.

11. (canceled)

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